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CHILE: Latin American Christian Democratic leaders believe that an Allende government in Chile means a Communist take-over and dictatorship.

The governing council of the Organization of Christian Democrats of America (ODCA) visited Santiago this week for an intensive look at the effects of the defeat of the first Christian Democratic government in the hemisphere. The ODCA leaders unanimously rejected the argument of defeated candidate Radomiro Tomic that democracy and the Chilean Christian Democratic Party (PDC) would survive and even thrive if Salvador Allende should become president. They accepted President Frei's gloomy prediction that Allende means Communism and dictatorship; they believe the PDC is badly split and Frei's influence is limited.

The ODCA leaders concluded that there was little chance that the PDC will block Allende's approval by Congress on 24 October. They also fear that the Chilean case will be exploited to argue that Christian Democracy only paves the way for Communism.

The Christian Democratic developmental organization called DESAL already has decided to move its headquarters from Santiago to Caracas, capital of the only other Christian Democratic government in Latin America. The move is being made because of fear of an Allende government and the decision of DESAL's West German financial backers to withhold funds if it remains in Chile.

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